

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING SUMMARY**

A public involvement meeting was held on Wednesday December 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Corrales Council Chambers in Corrales, Sandoval County, New Mexico. Display notices were advertised in local newspapers including the Corrales Comment and the Rio Rancho Observer. Meeting flyers were posted around Corrales.

Approximately 19 people attended the meeting excluding project team members. A project team presentation was given including information regarding the purpose and need for the project, history of the Harvey Jones Channel and flood events, the two alternatives under consideration, the NEPA process and environmental issues. Meeting participants were given the opportunity to voice comments, concerns and questions throughout the presentation and afterward. In general the public comments, concerns and questions included the following:

- Concern that neither alternative deals with sewer line breakage, which occurred during last two flood events and flooded neighboring properties with wastewater.
  - SCAFCA's response: SCAFCA, the City of Rio Rancho, and the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have been working on engineering solutions to ensure that sewer line breaks do not occur within the arroyo system. The City of Rio Rancho is being required in their USACE 404 permit for sewer line replacement to use improved materials that will flex, instead of break, in the event they are exposed during severe storm events. Additionally, the City is being required by the Corps of Engineers to bury sewer lines within arroyos much deeper, thereby reducing the chances of sewer line exposure during storm events.
- Concern regarding pond filtration impact on groundwater and drinking water.
  - SCAFCA's response: SCAFCA is currently regulated by the EPA under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and has had no compliance issues with this permit. SCAFCA does not anticipate any negative impact to the groundwater or drinking water from the infiltration of any stormwater at this location.
- Concern the ponds are not large enough and will not be effective.
  - SCAFCA's response: The primary function of the pond located at the end of the Harvey Jones Channel is to help achieve the increase in the flow capacity underneath Corrales Road by removing existing downstream barriers. This pond will also serve to drop out any remaining sediment and store it for removal and to provide a location for percolation of water into the local groundwater table. The primary sediment reduction facilities will be constructed in subsequent projects at the mouth of the Harvey Jones and Dulcelina Curtis Channels. These sediment removal facilities will be designed and sized to remove coarse sediment from the 100-year storm flows.
- Concern that SCAFCA will not respond quickly enough to empty sediment from ponds after one storm event and prior to the next event.

- SSCAFCA's response: Following the storm events of 2006 and 2010, SSCAFCA has built a reserve fund dedicated for large storm clean-up activities and is prepared to use that fund for large storm event clean-up operations.
- Concern about damage caused by trucks hauling sediment for construction and during regular maintenance.
  - SSCAFCA's response: SSCAFCA will work to reduce impact to land owners for proposed construction or during routine maintenance activities. SSCAFCA will monitor the situation during construction. The construction of the sediment removal ponds at the entrance of the Harvey Jones and Dulcelina channels should greatly reduce the volume of sediment at the end/outlet of the channel. This should result in reduction in the amount of routine maintenance activities needed.
- Concern that some of the proposed traffic detours would be too long, make access to businesses and adjacent homes difficult, and that the length of time detours will be needed is unreasonably long
  - SSCAFCA's response: SSCAFCA is trying to minimize traffic disruption during construction activities by examining alternative haul routes and numerous alternatives for traffic detours in the event that the road must be closed for construction.
- Request that both alternatives be constructed for maximum effectiveness.
  - SSCAFCA's response: SSCAFCA will work to achieve maximum effectiveness. .
- Concern that neither alternative would be truly effective (is a temporary patch) and think the bridge/roadway should be raised.
  - SSCAFCA's response: The analysis performed by SSCAFCA has determined that each of the proposed design options will convey sufficient flows to meet the 100-year storm event. Either of the two design options, in tandem with the proposed sediment removal facilities, will provide a highly effective solution to the current situation.
- Comment that SSCAFCA should consider draining runoff into MRGCD drain east of the proposed ponds to help divert excessive flows if ponds overtop. Concern that this suggestion would lead to flooding of homes along the drain south of the project area
  - SSCAFCA's response: SSCAFCA is not considering use of the MRGCD drains as a stormwater conveyance at this time.
- General support for improvements associated with both proposed project alternatives.
  - SSCAFCA response: SSCAFCA thanks the public for the support of the project.

One phone comment was received prior to the meeting by a resident adjacent to the project area. The resident expressed concern regarding the proposed project. Two comments were received during the comment period and are summarized below:

- Consider a draw bridge on Corrales Road and drag line for sediment removal during flood events. Questions regarding the final capacity of the bridge, the percentage by which the CBC box increases capacity, and whether water can drop into the Riverside Drain during flooding.
  - SSCAFCA's response: Although a draw bridge would resolve the constriction at the bridge when opened, the cost to construct one is not within the construction budget

and presents significant operation and maintenance issues; therefore it will not be considered. Regarding the drag line, in order to reach the river, SCAFCA would cross outside of SCAFCA jurisdiction into the USACE and Bureau of Reclamation jurisdiction. SCAFCA will inquire to both federal agencies about possible funding and support for a dragline. The CBC option increases the capacity of the channel by approximately 24% to approximately 6,200 cubic feet per second. See above comment on diverting water to the riverside drain.

- Consider opportunities to use any water that enters the Corrales Bosque Wildlife Preserve to improve poor quality water and restore rare wetland and backwater habitats in this reach of the bosque.
  - SCAFCA's response: SCAFCA supports increasing habitat along the river corridor. SCAFCA is currently coordinating with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission on a habitat restoration project in the Rio Grande adjacent to SCAFCA jurisdiction.

The comment period ended December 27, 2012. Copies of the meeting flyer, sign-in sheets and written comments are attached.